

Remarks:

1. The specification has been amended to correct several grammatical errors
2. A replacement sheet for sheet 4/4/ has been provided to correct a numbering error.
3. Claims 1, 2, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shitanoki (4,789,342).

- a. Regarding claim 1, applicants respectfully point out that axle 21 of Shitanoki is not connected to plate 24 of Shitanoki in perpendicular relation thereto. The axle 21 of Shitanoki is supported from below by bracket 25. In addition the auxiliary gear of Shitanoki is bearingly supported on the bracket 25, not on the axle as disclosed and claimed in the instant application. For these reasons, applicants contend that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Shitanoki and is in condition for allowance.
- b. Re claim 2 (which depends from claim 1), in addition to the arguments cited above, the axle 21 of Shitanoki is not disposed at an axial center of the bracket 25 (read as ring shield 25 by the Examiner). As can be seen in Figure 3 of Shitanoki, the axle is at the center of the auxiliary gear, but there is a larger gap to the right of the auxiliary gear than there is to the left.
- c. Regarding claim 6, applicants respectfully point out that axle 21 of Shitanoki is not connected to plate 24 of Shitanoki in perpendicular relation thereto. The axle 21 of Shitanoki is supported from below by bracket 25. In addition the auxiliary gear of Shitanoki is bearingly supported on the bracket 25, not on the axle as

disclosed and claimed in the instant application. For these reasons, applicants contend that claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over Shitanoki and is in condition for allowance.

4. Claims 3-4, 7-8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shitanoki in view of Torii et al. (5,823,905)
 - a. Re claim 3, claim 3 depends from claim 2, therefore at least for the reasons cited in points 3(a) and 3(b) above, applicants contend that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.
 - b. Re claim 4, claim 4 depends from claim 3, therefore at least for the reasons cited in point 4(a) above, applicants contend that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.
 - c. Re claim 7, claim 7 depends from claim 6, therefore at least for the reasons cited in point 3(c) above, applicants contend that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.
 - d. Re claim 8, claim 8 depends from claim 7, therefore at least for the reasons cited in point 4(c) above, applicants contend that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.
 - e. Re claim 10, applicants respectfully point out that axle 21 of Shitanoki is not connected to plate 24 of Shitanoki in perpendicular relation thereto. The axle 21 of Shitanoki is supported from below by bracket 25. In addition the auxiliary gear of Shitanoki is bearingly supported on the bracket 25, not on the axle as disclosed and claimed in the instant application. For these reasons, applicants contend that claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over Shitanoki in view of Torii and is in condition for allowance.

5. Claims 5, 9, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims. As applicants contend that the base claims and all intervening claims are now in condition for allowance, applicants contend that claims 5, 9, and 11 are now in condition for allowance.

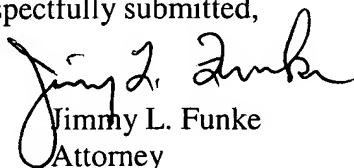
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the instant application.

Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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